

## The Heart of Jesus' Ministry

Mark 1:14-15



## A Brief Outline

- **I.) Sent to Serve (1-10)**
  - A) 1:1-13 – His preparation
    - 1) John's Ministry (1:1-8)
    - 2) Jesus' Baptism (1:9-11)
    - 3) Jesus' Temptation (1:12-13)
  - B) 1:14–10:52 – His Ministry
    - 1) To Galilee (1:14–7:23)
    - 2) To the Gentiles (7:24–9:50)
    - 3) To Jerusalem (10:1-52)
- **II.) Sent to Save (11-16)**
  - A) 11-15 – His Rejection & Death
  - B) 16 – His Resurrection

## Chapter 1

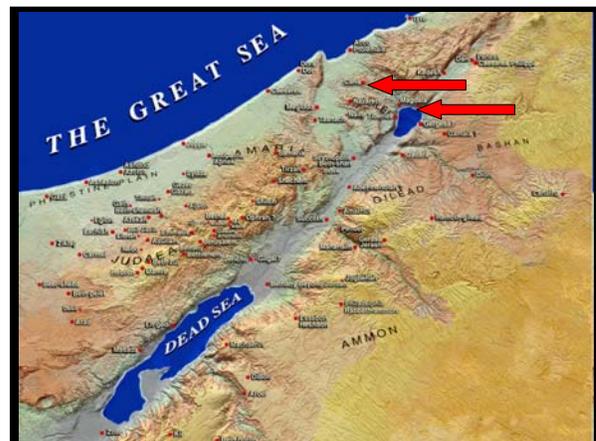
- 1:14—7:23 – His Ministry in Galilee
  - 1:14-15 – The Heart of His Message
  - 1:16-20 – The Call of His Disciples
  - 1:21-34 – The Ministry in Capernaum
  - 1:35-45 – The Tour of Galilee

## The Time

- 14a – “Now after John had been taken into custody.”
- A large amount of time passes between Mark 1:13 and Mark 1:14.

## Period 1: Summer of 26 AD– Passover 27 AD

- **(1)** Baptism (summer 26)
- **(2)** Temptation (fall 26)
- **(3)** Beginning of Christ's ministry (winter 27)
- **(4)** Gathers first disciples (future apostles; 1:35-51)
- **(5)** 1st public miracle (John 2:1:11)



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- (5) 1st public miracle (John 2:1:11)
- (6) Ends with Jesus going to Jerusalem for Passover # 1 (John 2:13).

## Period 2: Passover 27 AD– Passover 28 AD

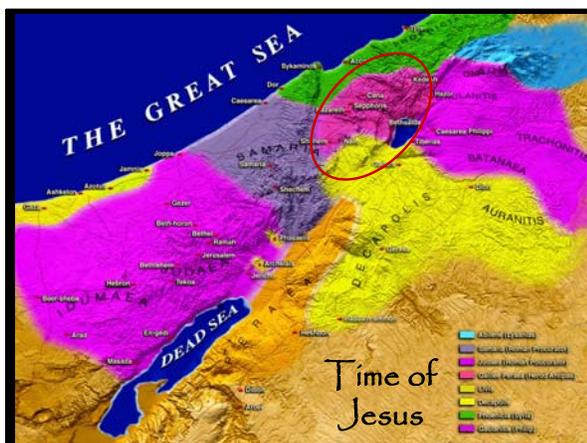
- Length: 1st full year of public ministry
- A time of increasing popularity and favor with the people.
- (1) Early ministry in Judea (about first 8 months)
  - (a) First cleansing of the temple during Passover season (John 2:13-22)
  - (b) The interview with Nicodemus (John 3:21)
  - (c) Jesus joins with John the Baptist (John 2-4; especially 3:22-36)
- (2) The arrest of John the Baptist
  - "now after John had been handed over..."

## The Time: Conclusion

- So, about a year after His baptism, Jesus leaves for Galilee.
- Mark doesn't start at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry.
- But he starts at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee.
- This was about a year after His baptism and temptation.

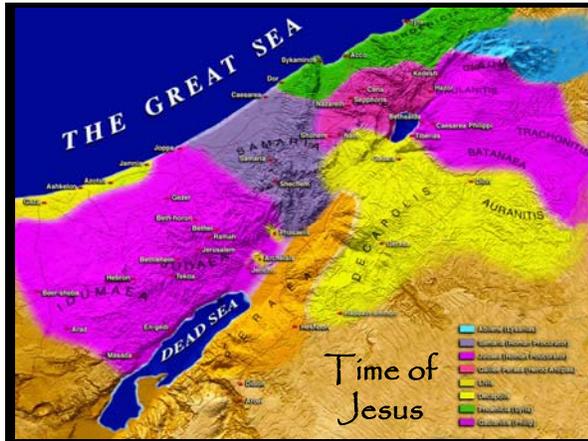
## The Location

- 14 - "Jesus came into Galilee"



## Why Galilee?

- Familiarity
- Many different nationalities
  - 1) It had both a large Jewish and Gentile population.
  - 2) It was surrounded by gentile nations.



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- Familiarity
- Many different nationalities
  - 1) It had both a large Jewish and Gentile population.
  - 2) It was surrounded by gentile nations.
  - 3) It was at the major crossroads of two international highways.
    - Because of this international mix...
      - a) The people were naturally more open.
      - b) Jesus could stay in one country and yet ensure the spread of His message.
- A large population
  - Josephus estimates about 3,000,000 people lived in the Galilee in the 1st century.
  - And many of its towns would have 15,000 of more inhabitants.

## The Heart of Jesus' Ministry

- 1) The Central Activity of His Ministry (14a)
- 2) A Simple Summary of His Message (14b-15)

## The Central Activity of His Ministry (14)

- "Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching..."
- Greek = *kerusso*
  - 33 different verbs for biblical preaching
  - the primary one
  - normally translated, "I preach or I proclaim."
  - means "to be a herald; to officiate as a herald; to proclaim after the manner of a herald."
  - classical Greek referred to a powerful government official appointed to summon and speak to town gatherings on behalf of the ruler.
  - always with a sense of formality, gravity, and with an authority that must be heard and obeyed.

## The NT Priority of Preaching

- Mark 1:4 - "John the Baptist appeared...preaching."
- Cf. Matt. 4:23 - Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.
- Cf. Matt. 9:35 - Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- Luke 4:17-19, 43-44
- Luke 8:1 - He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.

## The NT Priority of Preaching

- Mark 3:14 - He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach.
- Cf. Acts 20:25 - "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.
- And in the Pastoral Epistles, Paul commands Timothy and all future elders to continue to preach the word! (2 Tim. 4:1-2).

## A Simple Summary of His Message (14b-15)

- "Preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- The Title
  - "the gospel of God"
    - "good news"
    - The message about the righteousness that God gives to sinners solely on the basis of grace, because of the life and death of Christ, and that is received by faith alone.
    - "the gospel from God."

## A Simple Summary of His Message (14b-15)

- The Title: "the gospel of God"
- The Content:
  - "saying..."
  - There are two indicatives and two imperatives.

## Two Indicatives

- "saying, 'The time has been fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near.'"
- The Kingdom of God
  - 14x in Mark
  - the rule of God
  - 1) the universal sovereign rule of God
  - 2) the messianic or mediatorial rule of God

## The Messianic Kingdom

- a. The Present Aspect of Christ's Kingdom
  - Luke 17:20-21 - Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."
  - To enter the present aspect of the kingdom is to enter into salvation or eternal life
  - Matt. 19:16, 23-26
  - So we could define the present aspect of the kingdom as "the people over whose hearts Christ rules."

## The Messianic Kingdom

- b. The Future Aspect of Christ's Kingdom
  - Matt. 26:26-29\*
  - Includes both the millennial and the eternal kingdom.

## The Two Indicatives

- 1) The time for the kingdom had been fulfilled.
- 2) The kingdom of God has come near.

## Two Imperatives

- “repent and believe in the gospel.”
- Jesus teaches that it is...
  - God’s gracious gift (Luke 12:32; Matt. 21; 43)
  - Received (Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17)
  - And yet, you have to be willing to sacrifice everything to get it (Mark 9:47; 10:17ff).
- He reduces our response to two concepts: repentance and faith.

## Repentance

- Consistent message of the NT: Mark 6:12; Luke 13:3, 5, 7, 10; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 11:18; 26:20
  - 2 Tim. 2:25 - with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.
- It is a supernatural work.
- Even a miracle won’t produce it (Luke 16:30-31).

## Repentance

- True repentance is:
  - 1) an intellectual change
    - 2 Tim. 2:25 - with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth
  - 2) an emotional change
    - 2 Cor. 7:10 -- For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to salvation*, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
  - 3) a volitional change
    - Acts 8:22 - “Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.”

## Repentance

- The process:
  - 1) It begins with conviction of sin, produced by the Word of God.
  - 2) Conviction brings about godly sorrow for that sin.
  - 3) Godly sorrow is accompanied by a hope in the mercy of God.
  - 4) Godly sorrow produces true repentance.
  - 5) True repentance produces the fruit of repentance.

## Faith

- How saving faith is defined
  - Calvin in the *Institutes* refers to faith as “a kind of vessel” with which “we come empty and with the mouth of our soul open to seek God’s grace.”
  - Spurgeon in his excellent book, *All of Grace*, defines faith as “believing that Christ is what he is said to be, and that he will do what he has promised to do, and then to expect this of him.”
  - Berkhof: “a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.”

## Faith

- How true faith is pictured or illustrated
  - Looking to him (cf. Num. 21:9; John 3:14-15)
  - Eating his flesh & drinking his blood (John 6:50-58; cf. 4:14)
  - Receiving him (John 1:12)
  - Coming to him (John 5:40; 6:44, 65; 7:37-38)

## Faith: Three Elements

- Knowledge (*notitia*)
  - Intellectual
  - Factual content of faith
  - Saving faith is always based on divine teaching (Luke. Jn. 5:39; 1 Cor. 14:16-17; Rom. 10:9-10, 14, 17).
- Assent (*assensus*)
  - Emotional
  - The emotional response to the facts about Christ and salvation
  - Being convinced that the knowledge you gained from the Scripture about Christ is factually true and that He is exactly what you need
- Trust (*fiducia*)
  - Volitional
  - The volitional response to Christ
  - This is the heart of faith
  - E.g., Matt. 11:28-29 – take my yoke
  - E.g., Luke 9:23 – deny himself, take up his cross.